DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION

Central Land Office



STEVE BULLOCK, GOVERNOR

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Scoping Notice:

The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC), Trust Land Management Division (TLMD) Helena Unit is proposing the Black Smith Timber Sale. The proposed timber sale is located in Cascade County on Trust Land administered by the DNRC Helena Unit, approximately 15 miles south of Stocket, MT. Please see the attached maps. The harvest is proposed on the following parcel.

Township 16 North Range 4 East, Section 16,

The purpose of the proposed project is to encourage regeneration, remove trees impacted by western spruce budworm, and the mountain pine beetle, restore aspen stands, harvest overstocked timber and generate revenue for the Common School Trust. This includes capturing the value of live as well as dead and dying trees. Under the proposed action road construction, maintenance and improvement would take place. Other management activates may include noxious weed management, prescribed burning, construction of log landings

The proposed harvest would contribute to the DNRC's sustained yield as mandated by state statute 77-5-222. The proposal is in the general vicinity north end of the Little Belt Mountains. DNRC strives to balance its fiduciary responsibilities with its stewardship responsibilities that are intended to promote biodiversity and subsequently protect the future income-generating capacity of the forest. All forested lands involved in the proposed action would thus be managed in accordance with DNRC's State Forest Land Management Plan (SFLMP) and Forest Management Rules.

The proposal would harvest approximately 650 thousand board feet from approximately 200 acres of timber. The proposed action would likely be implemented in summer of 2018 and be completed by 2022. The DNRC is in the scoping phase of the project environmental assessment so all road distances, volumes and acreages are preliminary estimates. In preparation for this project, specialists such as wildlife biologists, hydrologists, soil scientists, and archeologists will be consulted. Neighboring landowners will also be asked for their input. The Montana DNRC invites comments and suggestions concerning this proposal from all interested parties. Please respond by end of business August 30th 2017 to:

Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
Attn: Devin Healy
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Proposed Black Smith Timber Sale Township 16 North Range 4 East Section 16







